

REPORT to the UTAH STATE LIBRARY BOARD

Wednesday, April 07, 2010

Issue: **Maintenance of Effort (MOE) & Recertification of Public Libraries**

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BACKGROUND

- The maintenance of effort clause is stated in standard II-C in the document “Standards for Utah Public Libraries.” It reads:
The jurisdiction complies with maintenance of effort funding support for the library. The jurisdiction expends an amount not less than 90% of the amount actually expended on the library in the second preceding fiscal year, exclusive of capital outlay and one-time increases.
- The maintenance of effort clause is designed to discourage the funding jurisdiction from withdrawing financial support for the library or disproportionately targeting it for funding cuts.
- The recertification of public libraries is done by State Library staff every three years. The last recertification was done in 2008 for the period of July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011. The next certification will be done in 2011 for the period of July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2014.

PROBLEM

- With recertification only being done every 3 years, the State Library lacks an effective way to follow up on substantial decreases in maintenance of effort in a timely manner.

SOLUTION

- State Library staff will use the Statistical Annual Report as the official mechanism to review each public library’s maintenance of effort.
 - Every public library is required to fill out this survey. City libraries submit their survey every Fall and County libraries every Spring.
 - From this report USL staff calculates the library’s MOE annually.
- If MOE is not met, the library is placed on provisional certification status.
 - The library has one year to meet this standard or submit to the State Librarian a letter of explanation from a city/county official stating that the library’s funding decrease is not a withdrawal of support and that other agencies in the jurisdiction experienced similar funding decreases.
 - As per Standards, a library cannot be in provisional certification status for two consecutive years.

PROPOSAL

- The Utah State Library Board will be asked to approve the document “Standards for Utah Public Libraries: Certification 2011 – 2014” which will replace the current document titled “Standards for Utah Public Libraries 2010.” The new document will include (red indicates changes or additions):
 - The following definition of maintenance of effort in standard II-C: “The jurisdiction complies with maintenance of effort funding support for the library. The jurisdiction expends (from local tax revenues only) an amount not less than 90% of the amount actually expended on the library in the second preceding fiscal year, exclusive of capital outlay and one-time increases.”
 - In the section “Certification Renewal: Certified Public Libraries” a paragraph will be inserted stipulating that the library’s maintenance of effort will be verified annually through the Statistical Annual Report, failure to meet it will automatically place the library under provisional certification status, and designate how the library can regain full certification.